

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00798 220403Z

61

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 /017 W

----- 119617

R 212325Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4511

UNCLAS BELIZE 0798

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC BH

SUBJ: IMPENDING GOB ACQUISITION OF LAND OWNED BY AMCITS

REF: GOWEN OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER

1. YOU MAY TELL SENATOR RUSSEL LONG THAT I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DR. CHARLES F. COLBY, ONE OF THE PARTNERS OF THE CALEDONIA ESTATES. I TOLD DR. COLY THAT I WOULD BE PLEASED TO INTERCEDE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE AT ANY LEVEL AND IN ANY MANNER HE AND HIS ATTORNEY HERE FELT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

2. THE FACT IS, THERE IS NOT MUCH THE CONSULATE GENERAL CAN DO AT THIS STAGE SINCE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LANDS IN QUESTION HAS BEEN CONSISTENCT WITH BELIZEAN LAW.

3. THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT UNDER WHICH THIS ACTION IS BEING TAKEN PROVIDES THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN ACQUIRE LAND AS BEING NECESSARY FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE. IT ALSO STIPULATES, HOWEVER, THAT THE OWNER MUST RECEIVE COMPANSATION.

4. THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION MAY BE ARRIVED AT BY NEGOTIATING INFORMALLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH THE GOVERNMENT THE MATTER GOES BEFORE A BOARD OF ARBITRATION. THIS BODY IS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE BELIZEAN GOVERNMENT, AND IN THE CASES I KNOW ABOUT THE BOARD'S AWARD HAS BEEN LARGER THAN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE WISHED. THUS, IT APPEARS THAT THE GOB HAS INCENTIVE FOR REACHING AN AGREE-
MENT WITH THE OWNERS OF THE CALEDONIA ESTATE.

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5. I EXPLAINED ALL THIS TO DR. COLBY AND URGED HIM TO KEEP
IN TOUCH WITH ME AND TO FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ME FOR ANY
SERVICE THE CONSULATE GENERAL MIGHT BE ABLE TO RENDER IN
THIS MATTER.

6. DR. COLBY SEEMED WELL SATISFIED WITH THIS.
GAWF

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NNN

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